

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2006

(approved as revised on 11/6/2006)

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:07 pm in Florian Hall, Maine Department of Public Safety Building, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present included Representative Richard Brown, Stephan Bunker, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Chief John Dean, Chief Kenneth Desmond, Ron Green, Geoffrey Maker, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, David Niklaus, Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan, Leslie Wiles and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Jay Bradshaw, Representative Robert Duplessie and David Wacker. Representative Patricia Blanchette, Senator Bruce Bryant, Chief Darrel Fournier, Charles Jacobs, Gerry Gay and Edward Johnston were absent. Guests of the Fire Commission attending today's meeting were Steve Willis from Southern Maine Community College, Bill Leighton from Maine Fire Training and Education, Richard Taylor from the State Fire Marshal's Office, Mike Mack from Juvenile Justice, Pam Tourangeau from York County Juvenile Fire Safety Collaborative, Charles Jarrett from the Westbrook Fire Department and Miles Hasker from the South Portland Fire Department.

The Fire Commission received a presentation from the Maine Juvenile Fire Safety Collaborative (MJFSC). MJFSC Director Pam Tourangeau gave members an overview of the MJFSC including a historical perspective, data and facts. MJFSC's mission is to "reduce fire related tragedies through assessment, intervention and education" and want to work with fire departments, county and state fire organizations, SFMO, educators, other juvenile fire setter groups, human and child protective services organizations, juvenile justice and other public and private organizations across Maine. MJFSC is applying for a grant from the Department of Homeland Security and is requesting the Fire Commission support MJFSC's effort by sending a letter of support. Fire Commission members debated the pro and cons of supporting MJFSC's request. Members learned the SFMO was supporting MJFSC's and a copy will be distributed to members. Although many members wanted to send a letter, other members expressed concerns about future funding and the need for more public discussion.

A motion by Ron Green, seconded by Alex McPhedran, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission support the Maine Juvenile Fire Safety Collaborative's grant application to the Department of Homeland Security and send a letter supporting MJFSC's application. The motion passes with one member opposed (Richard Nass) and one member abstaining (Dick Brown).

A motion by Steve Bunker, seconded by Richard Nass, to accept the minutes of July 10, 2006. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Steve Bunker, seconded by Richard Nass, to accept the minutes of September 12, 2006 as revised by striking the last two sentences on page 2, paragraph 1. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Spring Conference Committee reports it is arranging for speakers for the March 19th and 20th conference at the Augusta Civic Center.

The Training Facilities Committee has not yet determined its permanent membership although many Task Force members have indicated they would like to continue serving. A tour of the Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS) is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 18th and members of the Training Facilities Committee plan to attend. The Training Facilities Committee will report on their tour at the November Fire Commission meeting.

The Best Practices Committee reports their goal is to recognize outstanding and well deserving organizations and individuals who deserve recognition. The Best Practice Award is to be reserved for recipients who go beyond the norm and deserve recognition for their efforts. Nominations for the Best Practice award should be forwarded to Steve Bunker.

The Residential Sprinkler Committee is still seeking members. Chief Jack Woods of Caribou has indicated his interest. The Residential Sprinkler Committee is expected to work closely with the Truss Construction group and their goal would be to submit legislation in 2007.

Old Business

The Fire Commission discussed the September 12th roundtable discussion-summarizing the comments and deciding on future plans. The Fire Commission learned that the Maine Fire Chiefs had agreed to support the Fire Commission on their 2007 legislative agenda. At the September 12th meeting Fire Commission members discussed a Public Utilities (PUC) report on the consolidation of public safety answering points (PSAPs) and any recommendations. Staff has been asked to forward the report to members. Also discussed at the September 12th meeting was the issue of funding for Maine Fire Training and Education (MFT&E). MFT&E informed the Fire Commission that it was not their intent to go forward with legislation regarding their funding in 2007. Fire Commission members expressed concern with MFT&E's recent decision and the appearance of programs being cut and positions being added. Discussion continued and MFT&E explained their funding challenges and reasoning for their position. Fire

Commission members, citing their charge of seeking permanent funding for MFT&E, recommended the appropriateness of MFT&E going before the Legislature in 2007 and to be forthcoming with budget information.

New Business

Fire Commission members were emailed a copy of a letter from Rebecca Wyke, Commissioner of the Department of Administration and Financial Services regarding a code of ethics. The Governor has directed Commissioner Wyke to prepare legislation that “will require each component unit or related organization of State government to develop its own code of conduct and ethics”. A sample of the code of ethics adopted by the Executive Branch was also emailed to Fire Commission members. Charlie Soltan volunteered to review the current code of ethics and to draft a proposal more appropriate to the Fire Commission versus other state agencies. A copy of the draft proposal will be emailed to members prior to November’s meeting.

Fire Commission members discussed the 2007 legislative session. The Fire Service Day at the State House will be on Thursday, January 18th in the Hall of Flags. Tentative plans include display tables in the Hall of Flags, demonstrations, color guard and refreshments. Members also discussed the importance of the Fire Caucus and to educate the new legislators on fire service issues. The Fire Commission will attempt to get on the agenda for new legislators after the election.

The Fire Commission noted that Saturday, October 7th is Firefighter Recognition Day and that a service will be held at the Firefighter Memorial.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette
Staff

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

<u>Monday, November 6th</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Tuesday, November 7th</u>	Election Day	USA	All Day
<u>Tuesday, November 14th</u>	Homeland Security	State House	10am-5pm
<u>Thursday, November 16th</u>	Homeland Security	State House	10am
<u>Monday, December 4th</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, January 8th</u>	FIRE CAUCUS	State House	12Noon
<u>Monday, January 8th</u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm
<u>Thursday, January 18th</u>	Fire Service Day	State House	9am-1pm
<u>Monday, February 5th</u>	FIRE CAUCUS	State House	12Noon
<u>Monday, February 5th</u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm
<u>Monday, March 5th</u>	FIRE CAUCUS	State House	12Noon
<u>Monday, March 5th</u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm
<u>Monday, March 19th</u>	Spring Conference	ACC **	All Day
<u>Monday, March 19th</u>	Legislative Reception	ACC **	4pm-7pm
<u>Tuesday, March 20th</u>	Spring Conference	ACC **	All Day

** Augusta Civic Center